

- D3
35. (Amended) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
- a) disposing a stent in an aperture of a device for reducing a stent in cross-section, the aperture defined by at least three closely spaced movable dies disposed about the aperture, the dies having a length and a stent contacting portion;
 - b) reducing the size of the aperture by moving the dies such that the dies exert a uniform force to the stent along the length of the stent contacting portion of the dies so as to reduce the stent in size.

- D4
37. The method of claim 35 wherein the stent is cooled below ambient temperature prior to the moving step.

Please add new claims 44 and 45 as follows:

- D5
44. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the plurality of dies form a chamber that is cooled below ambient temperature prior to the moving step.
45. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the stent is cooled so that it is in the martensitic state.

Please cancel claims 42 and 43.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 2, 2002. In the Final Office Action claims 27, 28, 33-36, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Morales (5,893,852). Claims 27, 28, 33-36, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Morales (6,167,605). Claims 31, 32, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Morales (5,893,852). Claims 29 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morales (5,893,852) in view of Charzewski (4,942,756). Claims 30 and 38